



LUNCHEON FOR FIRST RESPONDERS

NORWALK MAYOR JENNIFER PEREZ (far left) organized the drive-by luncheon to thank all Public Safety Officers. The drive thru was held at City Hall April 27. Lunches were later delivered to the all the fire stations; the sheriff’s department; California Highway Patrol; Metropolitan State Hospital Police and all NLM USD school resource officers. **Story page 3.**

Rose Hills Employees Paint to Relieve Stress

Management arranged the outing with a local painter, who set up a finger-painting event.

BY TAMMYE MCDUFF

Funeral professionals at Rose Hills Memorial Park & Mortuary have worked tirelessly to care for families who have lost loved ones during the pandemic. With dedication and compassion throughout the entire time, these employees have shouldered the pain and stress of others. To help relieve some of the stress they have carried, employees participated in finger painting a paint-by-numbers mural alongside local artist Peter

Tigler, on May 18. Employees arrived in shifts throughout the day to participate. When completed the mural will be an oversized painting of Rose Hill associates who worked during the pandemic. The mural will be permanently installed as a lasting tribute in an ‘employee only’ area of the park. Every industry was impacted by COVID-19. “As it was with the hospital teams, our employees were working long hours; late nights; weekends and overtime to meet an unfortunate demand. Our funeral services team was prepping families for funeral services; we even had to call in other funeral locations through our Dignity Memorial

See **ROSE HILLS** page 14



ROSE HILLS employees finger paint characterizations of frontline workers who worked through the pandemic, guiding families and friends who had lost relatives to COVID.

State & Local Fiscal Recovery Funds Total \$350 Billion

The funds come from the American Rescue Plan Act, and can be used in a variety of areas.

BY JULIE BOSCH

WASHINGTON — This week, the U.S. Department of the Treasury announced \$350 billion in emergency funding for state, local, territorial, and Tribal governments. Treasury also released details on the ways funds can be used to respond to acute pandemic-response needs, fill revenue shortfalls among state and local governments, and support the communities and populations hardest-hit by the COVID-19 crisis. While the need for services provided by state, local, territorial, and Tribal governments has increased, governments have faced significant revenue shortfalls as a result of the economic fallout. As a result, these governments have endured unprecedented strains, forcing many to make untenable choices between laying off educators, firefighters, and other frontline workers or failing to provide

See **FUNDING** page 13

EXCLUSIVE: Two Additional Workers Sue Hawaiian Gardens for Harassment

The same perpetrator is allegedly involved, Code Enforcement Officer Fred Licon.

BY BRIAN HEWS

Yet another complaint has hit the city of Hawaiian Gardens courtesy of Code Enforcement employee Fred Licon, the latest from two woman who worked for the city for many years, Linda Suniga and Claudia Raya. Both the named plaintiffs in the complaint allege ongoing “retaliation, intimidation, and harassment” with the two women

also filing a whistleblower complaint. The complaint was filed by the same attorney representing another employee who was allegedly harassed by Licon, Brianna Gonzalez. Just two weeks ago, Gonzalez filed the complaint suing the city alleging, like Suniga and Raya, that the city did not do enough to protect her from being sexually harassed by Licon. Gonzalez complaint alleges harassment - quid pro quo, hostile work environment, and failure of the city to take all reasonable steps necessary to prevent harassment. Suniga and Raya’s complaint alleges the same, but then spells

See **HARASSMENT** page 12

Pico Rivera Will Carry a \$2.1 Million Surplus Into Next Fiscal Year

Improved city programs driving revenue and sales tax, while expenses are kept low.

BY BRIAN HEWS

Recent reports by the city of Pico Rivera show the city in surprisingly good fiscal shape given the massive impacts that the pandemic has had on other municipalities. General Fund revenues are up, while expenditures are down. The city’s General Fund has several sources of revenue which include three major categories: sales tax, property tax and all other revenues, which include licenses and permits and business licenses. Sales tax is the largest source of revenue for the General Fund, comprising more than one-third of the annual operating revenues, so the Mayor and City Council along with City Manager Steve Carmona were bracing for large decline due to the pandemic, and projected 23 percent decline. But the losses were not as massive as first calculated,

thanks to the city proactively implementing plans to assist local businesses, which led to an increase in sales tax. A rise in the property tax roll, and an increase in Pico Rivera residents shopping online were also cited as revenue drivers.

See **PICO RIVERA** page 12

Artesia Begins Reopening Protocols

BY TAMMYE MCDUFF

The city of Artesia officially announced Tuesday May 18 that the reopening of the city is underway. City facilities and operations will be fully opened by July 1, subject to state and county protocols. The reopening is set for three phases, the first phase, which began Monday May 17, will see City Hall open to the public for appointments during regular business hours with health screenings. City parks will be open for outdoor recreations and social

See **ARTESIA** page 12



Young Entrepreneurs
Kids as young as 8 sell their products at a pop-up.
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Cerritos Parks Facelift
\$183K for El Rancho Verde and Liberty Parks.
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Helping Seniors
Commerce company and councilman give free meals.
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Car Shooting on 91
More BB gun shootings in Cerritos this past week.
Page 6.



Dominic's Ristorante
The Cypress icon innovated and survived COVID.
Page 9.



Gascon Recall
Organizers have to collect over 579,000 signatures.
Page 14.

Lakewood City Council Update

BY TAMMYE MCDUFF

Measure A funding include projects at the San Martin Park, Rynerson Park and Mayfair Park picnic shelter improvements.

The Lakewood Equestrian Center demolition contract goes to bid this month and consultants are being considered.

Currently there is over \$764,000 availabletothecityforparkimprovements through Los Angeles County’s Measure A program and nearly \$223,000 through the state’s Prop 68 Program.

The Public Safety Committee reported that 23 out of 25 organizations have chosen to operate a fireworks stand July 2021.

The lottery will be conducted from a wait-list.

The sheriffs reported Part 1 crimes throughout the City increased in the first quarter of this year compared to last year.

Grand Theft Auto reflects a nationwide trend. Lakewood Center mall crimes were down this year.

Public Safety staff reported special events have been rigorously promoted on social media to engage interest.

Installation of radios on new vehicles is nearly complete and will be debuted this month.

Targeted enforcement is scheduled to begin as the Fourth of July grows closer.

Due to the ongoing CoVID related health orders, the return of the Artesia Block Party will not take place.

In lieu of the traditional format, a city sponsored fireworks show with three sites was presented to the Community Promotions Committee, who wanted to move forward with the concept.

Joe Jost’s Fundraiser for Community Hospital Long Beach Foundation

BY BRIAN HEWS

Community Hospital Long Beach (CHLB) and Joe Jost’s Pub & Sports Bar both opened in 1924.

For almost 100 years both have been a tradition in Long Beach, providing legacy, service, consideration, a family caring atmosphere and support.

“Joe Jost’s is continuing to honor our first responders, the men and women who are risking their lives for us every day. Our third responder “world famous t-shirts” salutes our local Health Care Workers with proceeds being donated to support the CHLB Foundation, as the hospital re-opens to the community,” says Ken Buck, Joe Jost’s owner and grandson of the founder.

“We are so pleased to be working with Ken Buck and Joe Jost’s on this recognition for our local Health Care Workers,” states Matthew Faulkner, CHLB Foundation Executive Director. “Over the years Joe Jost’s has been a consistent supporter and donor to many of our fundraising events!”

At Joe Jost’s in-store shirts are \$25 and \$10 from each will be donated to the CHLB Foundation. Joe Jost’s is open daily from 11 am to 9 pm for in-door dining, located at 2803 E. Anaheim St., Long Beach.

Women’s Health Care Workers t-shirts are ONLY available on-line, \$5 dollars from each sold online will be donated to the CHLB Foundation. On-line orders will be shipped by June 21, 2021.

On-line orders are available at: <https://bit.ly/3429wdn>

Community Hospital Foundation, established in 1972, continues to seek and provide financial support that sustains both emergency and critical care services

as CHLB is reopening. The Foundation’s mission is to ensure the continuation of it’s legacy of supporting the best possible patient care and healthcare programs for Community Hospital Long Beach and our community. The Foundation Board ensures that all funds are managed prudently and dispersed in keeping with the wishes of our donors. Go to chlbfoundation.org/donate to donate. For more information call 562/933-5970.

Norwalk Town Square Hosts Budding Entrepreneurs



MIA MATEOS sells her handcrafted jewelry from her business "Bright Lovely Creations," during a pop-up event in Norwalk Town Square on May 15, 2021. She made the jewelry using beads, and sold stickers as well. Other child business owners sold their merchandise with some as young as eight years old who were eager to sell their unique and creative ideas to promote their store. Aaron Garcia, 9, sold his homemade butter-slime at his business "Aaron's Slime Shack." The organizers scheduled the next small business event in Norwalk Town Square for June 12, and encouraged young entrepreneurs to keep building their business.

Cerritos City Council Review of the Preliminary Combined Financial Program for Fiscal Year 2021-2022



The Cerritos City Council and members of the Successor Agency to the Cerritos Redevelopment Agency will review the following item at a special meeting to be held on **Thursday, June 3 at 7 p.m.** in the City Council Chambers:

- Review of the Preliminary Combined Financial Program for Fiscal Year 2021-2022, for the City of Cerritos and the Successor Agency to the Cerritos Redevelopment Agency

Community members are encouraged to participate and review the preliminary budget on the City’s website, cerritos.us.

For more information, call (562) 916-1315.

CHP BEEFS UP BB GUN PATROLS ON HIGHWAYS

STAFF REPORT

The California Highway Patrol has increased patrols along some Southern California freeways after more than 50 reports of BB or pellet gun shootings destroying vehicle windows.

CHP offices in Riverside, Orange and Los Angeles counties continue to compare notes of the various reports, most of which have occurred on the 91 Freeway from Riverside to Cerritos.

Motorists either heard a noise or saw a flash as the window was damaged.

Many of the incidents have occurred in the Corona area, with some in Anaheim, Riverside and Cerritos on the 91. One shooting targeted a double-decker bus on the 105 Freeway in

Downey.

About 9 a.m. Friday, the back window of an officer’s cruiser was damaged by an unknown object while on the shoulder of the eastbound 91 Freeway, near the 241 Toll Road.

Drivers who experience a window shattering should contact the CHP as soon as safely possible.

“We’re asking that drivers call 911 immediately and provide that information and descriptions of vehicles in the surrounding area and eventually, we hope, we start to get similar descriptions,” said a CHP spokesperson. “Stop and call don;t wait.”

One minor injury was reported as a result of the shootings. Officers did not know if they were multiple suspects.

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BY TAMMYE MCDUFF

The Norwalk City Council distributed box lunches to all the first responders who have worked so diligently these past few months and all last year.

The luncheon is typically held on the lawn of City Hall each year, however due to the pandemic that was not possible. “What we were able to do through the Public Safety Commission and the Community Promotion Commission was to actually deliver the luncheon to all of our first responders,” said Jesus Gomez, Chief Administrative Officer for the City.

Mayor Jennifer Perez headed the drive-by luncheon to show thanks to all the Public Safety Officers. The drive thru was held at City Hall the morning of Tuesday, April 27. Later that afternoon

and most of the following day lunches were delivered to the all the fire stations; the sheriff’s department; California Highway Patrol; Metropolitan State Hospital Police and all NLM USD school resource officers, “we are so lucky that we have the best first responders here in the City of Norwalk,” she stated, “this is just one way to show we care.”

The annual event is hosted by the Community Promotion Commission. Mayor Jennifer Perez, City Manager Jesus Gomez and Public Safety Commissioners were also on hand to thank our first responders for their dedicated service to our community. A big shout out goes to Rodger’s Catering and So Cal Pizza for catering the event.

“With the help of all the commissioners we were able to show our appreciation to all of these selfless employees.”



NORWALK Public Safety Commissioners and Safety Police enjoyed a lunch delivered by Norwalk Mayor Jennifer Perez and other volunteers.

Artesia Launches Mental Health Support Program

On May 5, 2021 L.A. County Department of Mental Health launched the Mental Health Promoters Program in partnership with the City of Artesia at AJ Padelford Park. On the initial opening day (5/5/21), an informational desk was set up outside of AJ Padelford Park facility in order to engage with residents and park goers. Mental Health Promoters will hold and provide services every Wednesday between 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. for consultation and informational items and they also provide emotional well-being presentations and session at 6 p.m. that same day in order to promote more attendance and involvement. The schedules for the well-being presentation and session which starts every Wednesday at 6:00pm:

6/9/21	Anxiety Disorders
6/16/21	Symptoms and Treatments of Depression
6/23/21	Suicide Prevention
Group sessions and one-on-one sessions will be provided based on the needs and demands. Additional presentations/sessions will be offered for following months to come. The program will provide at least four (4) hours of services every Wednesdays of each week. In the efforts to help promote this Mental Health support program, the City of Artesia will be advertising on the City's website, social media platform, flyers posted at different location of City's facilities and County Library, and Code will assist with delivering flyers to residents. Information are provided in both English and Spanish.	
5/26/21	Mental Health & Stigma
6/2/21	Stages of Grief and Loss

Cerritos Housing Element Online Survey

BY TAMMYE MCDUFF

The city of Cerritos is asking for residents input and feedback regarding the future of housing in Cerritos. The survey is open to the public through June 11, 2021.

As required by State housing law, the Cerritos is currently in the process of updating its Housing Element (HE) for the 2021-2029 planning period. The HE outlines the City’s housing policies, goals, programs and opportunities for new housing development over the next eight years. As part of the State’s efforts to provide housing opportunities for all income categories and housing types, California quantifies projected housing needs and assigns housing allocations to each County. This allocation, called the Regional Housing Needs Assessment is

the total number of housing units that City must plan for in the Housing Element. For the 2021-2029 periods, Cerritos was allocated a total of 1,908 housing units, which must be planned for construction during this time period.

The survey gathers community feedback on housing preferences, needs and future housing opportunities. The survey will remain anonymous. If you would like to be more involved or stay up to date or be notified of updates, visit here: <http://bit.ly/Cerritoshousing>

A City Council session and community workshops will be held to allow the general public to provide input.

For information regarding the survey please visit www.cerritos.us or email your contact information to housingelement@cerritos.us

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La Mirada's Benton MS a 2021 Exemplary Arts Education Award Recipient

STAFF REPORT

On April 29, 2021, State Superintendent Tony Thurmond announced Benton Middle School Visual & Performing Arts Magnet in La Mirada as a 2021 Exemplary Arts Education Award recipient. The Exemplary Arts Education Award is part of the California Distinguished Schools (DS) Award. Schools must meet the DS requirements in addition to offering a sequence of classes in the disciplines of Dance, Media Arts, Music, Theatre, and the Visual Arts.

Benton was recognized for providing an exemplary arts education while also showing growth in Language Arts, Math, and Student Attendance. Benton was one of 33 schools across the state of California and only one of eight schools serving middle school students in the Southern California region. In spite of the challenging circumstances of Distance Learning over the past year, Benton still provided an outstanding arts program to all students. The school and staff will be honored at an awards ceremony later in the year.

If you would like more information about attending Benton Middle School Visual & Performing Arts Magnet, or if you would like to support our award-winning arts program, please contact Ben Webster (bwebster@nlmusd.org) at Benton Middle School.



EQUIPMENT UPGRADE: improvements at the two parks total \$183,000.

BY TAMMYE MCDUFF

The City of Cerritos receives Community Development Block Grant funding each year. This funding is strictly regulated by guidelines established by the Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development [HUD]. Cities are required to use these funds for activities that benefit revitalizing neighborhoods and improving community facilities.

A city may also use these funds to improve accessibility for disabled individuals. Playground surface materials

such as sand or wood fibers may limit accessibility to playground areas.

The City recently proposed a project that includes improving accessibility at the fit core areas at El Rancho Verde Park and Liberty Park which currently use sand

Prior to the project the city published the bid in Los Cerritos Community News and received two bids for the project. RE Schultz Construction, Inc. of Orange, Ca. submitted the lowest bid in the amount of nearly \$183,000.

The project was heard at the last meeting and approved by City Council.

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Lakewood Buys Sky Knight Helicopters

Lakewood's Sky Knight program is notable as America's first airborne law enforcement patrol service, initiated in 1966.

For 55 years, Sky Knight helicopters have enhanced public safety in Lakewood, and its Sky Knight partner Cerritos, by being a "patrol car in the sky" that can arrive on an emergency scene far faster than a ground unit. That enables Sky Knight to direct ground units on how and where to effectively respond, and to spot a fleeing suspect or vehicle. Sky Knight can also do proactive patrol in areas that are not easily accessible by ground units such as riverbeds, railroad tracks and roof tops.

Six years ago, Lakewood converted its two helicopter Sky Knight fleet to Robinson R-44s that are easier to repair and maintain and have better public safety features than the previous Sky Knight helicopters. One of the new Robinsons came with a six-year lease with an option to purchase for \$1 at the end of the lease. That lease period is ending this August, and last night the Lakewood City Council approved the purchase of the helicopter at that \$1 price.

Lakewood has two helicopters, but rarely flies both at once. Instead, the city rotates the use of each helicopter to allow for an optimum maintenance and repair schedule in order to maximize how long each helicopter will last and provide safe and effective use in the Sky Knight program.

Vaccine Available Via Mobile Service



MOBILE VACCINE: If you are interested, please complete the form, atVaccinateLACounty.com (English) andVacunateLosAngeles.com (Spanish), or call 1-833-540-0473.

BY TAMMYE MCDUFF

If you want a COVID-19 vaccine but are having a hard time, you can now submit a request for a mobile vaccination unit to come to your home, business or workplace to vaccinate you & others.

The LA County Department of Public Healthisprovidingmobilevaccineteamsto administer CoVID-19 vaccines at various locations throughout the community. If you are interested, please complete the form, at www.VaccinateLACounty.com (English) and www.VacunateLosAngeles.com (Spanish), the Mobile Vaccine Phone Bank Team will contact you to provide more information and help answer any of

your questions.

Employers and workers are encouraged to fill out the mobile vaccine form to express interest in having mobile vaccine units come out to your business or workplace to provide vaccines to groups of employees.


To find a vaccination site near you, to make an appointment at vaccination visit: www.VaccinateLACounty.com (English) and www.VacunateLosAngeles.com (Spanish) If you don't have internet access, can't use a computer, or you're over 65, you can call 1-833-540-0473 for help finding an appointment or scheduling a home-visit if you are homebound. Vaccinations are always free.

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Commerce Company Delivers Free Meals to Seniors



MEAL DELIVERY team gets ready to deliver to residents at the Rosewood Park Senior Apartment Complex in Commerce, Tamayo Restaurant provided the meals.

Many lives have been turned upside down by COVID-19, says Camila Gonzalez, public relations director for Commerce-based Bridge Publications.

Bridge wanted to do something special for the community, so they reached out to local civic leaders to find out what they felt was most needed. Councilman Hugo Argumedo said it should be something that will help the seniors, many of whom lack resources or families to look after them.

“This gave us the idea of how we could help in more than one way,” says Gonzalez. She and the other staff at Bridge had already been brainstorming about doing something for Tamayo Restaurant and Art Gallery.

Bridge raised the funds to provide a special Tamayo lunch to 93 residents of the Rosewood Park Senior Apartments.

Councilman Argumedo pulled together a team of volunteers to deliver the lunches, including his wife Jessa, who also arranged for a truck to come to the restaurant and pick everything up.

“I want to thank Bridge Publications for the wonderful opportunity to ensure our seniors had a nice visit and lunch,” said Jessa Argumedo. “The smiles on the seniors’ faces said everything.”

“One of the best moments of this whole activity was seeing Tamayo’s Humberto Veloso’s surprise when we presented him with a \$1,000 donation to show our appreciation for their help on the project and to support them in these challenging times.”

“You helped from your heart,” said Veloso, “and we were able to help you to do so, and help our business.”

Soroptimists Award \$7,000 Live Your Dream Awards

BY DIANA NEEDHAM

Soroptimist International of Artesia-Cerritos completed its annual Live Your Dream Awards celebration for 2021 by awarding a total of \$7,000 to five winners, all current students at Cerritos Community College.

The first-place winner, Rossemary Gazitua, received a cash award of \$2,000, and will also receive ten hours of career mentoring from three professionals in the field of her desired future career as an accountant.

The other four winners all received \$1,250 cash awards.

All of the 2021 award winners are single mothers with aspirations of finishing their college degrees and entering into professions to better their lives and of their children’s lives.

The Live Your Dream Awards go to women who are heads of households, low income, in college or vocational education, with a clear career goal, and who have had life challenges.

Soroptimist International of Artesia-Cerritos’ Live Your Dream Awards Committee consists of Gayle Reidy, Co-Chair, and Lola Rizkallah, Co-Chair, plus key committee members Gabrielle Babcock and Diana Needham.

“We are very proud of all the award winners and the successful track they are on for college degrees and successful careers”, said Gayle Reidy, Live Your Dream Awards Co-Chair. “Our Club’s awards will be a boost to each winner in achieving their goals”, said Lola Rizkallah, Live Your Dream Awards Co-Chair.

“We thank the Soroptimist Club for honoring five of our Cerritos College students with these wonderful awards”, said Jose Ferro, Cerritos College President and Superintendent. “This



FIRST PLACE: Rossemary Gazitua received a cash award of \$2,000.

program is very dear to my heart and makes me proud to be a Soroptimist”, said Shin Liu, Cerritos College Board of Trustees Vice President.

The Live Your Dream Awards is one of two Soroptimist International’s signature programs held each year by Soroptimist Clubs, Districts, Regions and Federations around the world.

As a participant with official status in the United Nations, Soroptimists sit on many important UN committees having to do with improving conditions for women and girls.

The United Nations has recognized the Live Your Dream Awards as an important worldwide program.

To learn about becoming a Soroptimist member, contact President-Elect Gabrielle Babcock at 972-890-3636. We welcome new members.

This club year, we inducted two new members into our dynamic organization”, said Sowmya Ananthanarayanan, MD, and Club President.

Soroptimist International of Artesia-Cerritos celebrated its 48st year of founding and a successful past year with over \$16,000 in giving through its Soroptimist programs and donations to many local organizations/charities.

College Banner Program Honors La Mirada Students

STAFF REPORT

The College Banner program recognizes La Mirada High School students for their outstanding achievements, overall contributions to La Mirada High School, the City of La Mirada and their ongoing pursuit of education.

A committee comprised of Norwalk-La Mirada Unified School District staff, La Mirada High School teachers, and City staff selected this year’s recipients to be honored with a banner that will be displayed on Adelfa Drive.

To be eligible for the program students were required to submit an application, be admitted to a college or university for the upcoming fall and have a minimum 3.5 grade point average.

For additional information on the College Banner program, please contact La Mirada City Hall at (562) 943-0131.

Congratulations Class of 2021!

Billie Berg	Pepperdine
Natalie Constantine	UC Davis
Isabella Eckart	Brandeis Univ.
Stephanie Hernandez	UC San Diego
Rosemary Herrera	CSU Long Beach
Ryan Lewis	The Master’s Univ.
Natalia Morales	UC San Diego
Kati Morgan	Cerritos College
Liz Ornelas Azusa	Pacific University
Stephanie Robles	CSU Fullerton
Giselle Rodriguez	CSU Long Beach
Liam Saucedo	UC Davis
Emma Spirescu	CSU Long Beach
Sarah Usmani	CSU Long Beach
Taj Woodward	Cal Poly Pomona
Jemima Yoon	UC San Diego

Drive-Thru Pet Clinic Hosted by La Mirada

The City will hold a drive-thru Pet Vaccination Clinic on Tuesday, June 15 from 5 to 8 p.m. in the parking lot of the La Mirada Community Gymnasium, located at 15101 Alicante Road.

The Clinic will be by appointment only. Reservations including payments, must be completed online by Tuesday, June 8.

To make a reservation visit www.heart4pets.org and click the “Clinic Services” tab.

Pet licensing services will also be provided at the drive-thru site. No reservation is needed to renew or obtain new animal licenses.

Pet licenses will be available at the following rates:

Altered dog	\$20
Unaltered dog	\$60
Senior Citizens owned altered dog	\$7.50
Senior Citizens owned unaltered dog	\$60
Altered cat	\$5
Unaltered cat	\$10

Pet vaccination and micro chipping will be available at the following rates:

Dog Rabies	\$7
Purevax for Cats	
1 year-	\$23
3 years-DHPP	\$49
Bordetella	\$23
FVRCP	\$18
FELV	\$23
AVID Microchips for Cats	\$30
AVID Microchips for Dogs	\$30
Other Services	
Roundworm deworming	\$13
Tapeworm deworming (dep. on weight)	\$15 - \$35

For more information regarding the Vaccination Clinic or pet licensing, please call (562) 902-2334.

La Palma Looking for Police Volunteers

The Volunteers in Policing (VIP) program is a group of volunteers who donate time assisting the La Palma Police Department.

Each volunteer is provided with a uniform and training to prepare them for a wide variety of duties. Volunteers assist

the city in conducting vacation house checks, traffic control at special events, and office duties.

If you are interested in learning more about the program or applying to become a volunteer, visit: www.cityoflapalma.org/VIP

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6238

CRIME SUMMARY

COMPILED BY HMG-LCCN

La Mirada

NOTABLE ARRESTS

- A suspect was arrested for driving under the influence near the intersection of Toerge Dr. and Delmont Pl.
- A search warrant was conducted on the **11600 block of Toerge Dr.** and two suspects were arrested for sales of a controlled substances, possession of narcotic paraphernalia and child endangerment.
- Nine suspects were arrested throughout La Mirada for various warrants and narcotics violations.

VEHICLE BURGLARY

- Various power tools were reported stolen during a daytime burglary on the **12300 block of La Mirada Blvd.**

GRAND THEFT

- A late-night catalytic converter theft was reported on the **16100 block of Rosecrans Ave.**
- A catalytic converter was reported stolen on the **15800 block of Glazebrook**
- A bicycle was reported stolen on the **15200 block of Rosecrans Ave.**
- A daytime theft of a catalytic converter was reported on the **14300 block of Firestone Blvd.**
- A catalytic converter was reported stole on the **14800 block of Roma Dr.**
- A late-night theft of a catalytic converter was reported on the **13900 block of Ramhurst Dr.**
- Construction equipment was reported stolen on the **13800 block of Valley View.**

GRAND THEFT AUTO

- A sedan was reported stolen on the **11600 block of Gayview Dr.**
- A SUV was reported stolen on the **12700 block of Valley View Ave.**
- A van was reported stolen on the **15200 block of Rosecrans Ave.**
- Two commercial vans were reported stolen on the **14100 block of Rosecrans Ave.**

Cerritos

AGGRAVATED ASSAULT

5/10 **13200 Blk. Hedda Pl.**, suspect was the son of victim 1 and the brother of victim 2. Suspect threatened to kill the victims and was arrested.

5/16 **Del Amo Bl and Mapes Ave.**, Suspect and victim are boyfriend and girlfriend, the suspect became angry and began to hit and strangle victim, suspect was arrested.

BURGLARY

5/16 **11100 Blk. Artesia Bl., Gahr High** maintenance bldg., tools stolen.

GRAND THEFT

5/15 **239 Los Cerritos Ctr.**, store inside Los Cerritos Center, stolen clothing.

5/15 **12700 Blk. Towne Center Dr.**, Towne Center parking lot, catalytic converter stolen.

5/12 **11500 Blk. South St., near Target**, catalytic converter stolen.

5/10 **12700 Blk. Palm St.** attempt to steal catalytic converter.

5/10 **239 Los Cerritos Ctr.**, Los Cerritos Center parking lot, catalytic converter.

VEHICLE BURGLARY

5/16 **13000 Blk. Moore St.**, business Volvo driver window, rear driver side window smashed, paperwork stolen.

5/14 **12300 Blk. Del Amo Bl.**, VW front passenger window shattered, cooler, laptop stolen.

5/14 **17600 Blk. Gerritt Ave.** Toyota, no sign of forced entry, gym equipment, cash, headphones, backpack stolen.

5/13 **239 Los Cerritos Ctr.**, Los Cerritos Center parking lot, Dodge, no sign of forced entry, laptop

5/12 **17900 Blk. Studebaker Rd.**, 24 hour Fitness Nissan, rear driver side window shattered, backpack, driver's license, cash stolen.

5/11 **10800 Blk. Alondra Bl.**, L.A. Fitness, Honda rear driver side window shattered, laptop, backpack, sunglasses, wallet, passport, stolen.

Norwalk Hires New Dir. of Public Safety

The former LAPD Deputy Chief brings a wealth of experience to Norwalk.

Norwalk, CA – Former Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) Deputy Chief Dennis Kato is the new Interim Director of Public Safety, officially starting on May 13th.

Kato brings with him 32-years of veteran experience with the LAPD. He has worked a variety of assignments such as patrol, gangs, vice, narcotics, burglaries, major assault crimes, and Asian Crimes homicides. He has supervised law enforcement personnel for over nineteen years and has been a command officer (captain and above) for over 11 years. As a Deputy Chief, Mr. Kato oversaw a workforce of approximately 1,500 officers and 500 civilian personnel.

Norwalk Mayor Jennifer Perez stated, "We are grateful for the work performed by Grissel Chavez, our former Director. She was instrumental in the many efforts performed by the Department, including our work in combating homelessness in our City. As a result, it is important that

the City recruit a replacement that will be ready to run the Department and hit the ground running from day one. Mr. Kato has both extensive leadership skills and experience in community policing to continue the work that had been done by the Department of Public Safety while the City seeks a permanent replacement for director."

As the new Interim Director of Public Safety, Mr. Kato now leads and manages day-to-day operations of the Norwalk Public Safety Department and its staff of 52 employees. Dennis Kato expressed his enthusiasm for the new task when he stated, "I'm grateful and excited for this opportunity. My experience with the LAPD along with my training has provided me with the foundation to lead the many efforts here and to expand on the duties of community policing efforts for Norwalk's growing community."

Mr. Kato has dealt with many intense policing efforts including several experiences of community unrest during his tenure with the LAPD and this has molded and shaped his view of policing and solidified his commitment to the tenets of community policing. This involves fostering trust between the police and the community, while aligning policies with community values and prioritizing community engagement. For more information please call (562) 929-5732 or email publicsafety@norwalkca.gov

Dennis Kato

Artesia HS Student Receives Prestigious Scholarship



AHS SENIOR Omar Orozco will be attending MIT in the fall after graduating from Artesia High School. Courtesy ABCUSD.

STAFF REPORT

Omar Orozco, a senior at Artesia High School, has been awarded The Gates Scholarship. The Gates Scholarship awards only 300 scholarships each year. Nearly 35,000 applications were considered.

“To say that I’m proud of Omar is an understatement,” said AHS Principal Sergio Garcia. “He is an amazing young man who has accomplished much during his high school career.”

The Gates Scholarship is only one of many of Omar’s accomplishments. He was accepted into ten universities, including the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Harvard University, University of California at San Diego (UCSD), and UCLA. Omar also received one of ten QuestBridge National College Matches, giving him a full scholarship to MIT.

“I dreamt of earning one full-ride

scholarship, but this is amazing,” said Omar. “My love for learning comes from my parents, who instilled in me the importance of education.”

“What a wonderful accomplishment for an amazing young man,” said ABC Superintendent Dr. Mary Sieu.

Not only has he achieved academically, but he has assisted others as well as a tutor. During high school, Omar spent time tutoring both at AHS and at Willow ES.

“I’ve enjoyed my time at Artesia High School,” said Omar. “I couldn’t have chosen a better school to attend.”

Omar lives in Lynwood and has attended AHS for all four years. He chose AHS for its Career and Technical Education programs and Advanced Placement courses and will be attending MIT in the fall. He would like to continue his education and study computational photography and maybe even teach.

Summer Class 'Creative Calm' LBCC Lifetime Learning Center

Cari Kaminski’s new class, “Creative Calm” joins together the art of meditation with the creative process, focusing on artistic expression as a source of relaxation.

Take time out of your day to center yourself and be inspired. Students will practice various forms of meditation, including breath awareness, mindful meditation, and guided imagery. Students will learn simple art techniques. Class is held on Thursdays, June 3- July 8, 10-11 am. “Tai Chi for Better Balance” with David Hennage and “Strength Training” with Jessi McMaster are offered again through the Lifetime Learning Center. Virtual classes are

available to everyone and range from \$30 to \$60. Register on-line at www.lbcc.edu/lifetime-learning-center. For more Information contact Theresa Brunella 562-930-3047 or tbrunella@lbcc.edu.

La Palma Concerts in the Park

The City of La Palma's Community Activities & Beautification (CAB) Committee will hold the 2021 Concerts in the Park Series "Rock'n through the Summer." Enjoy a night of music in the park with family and friends Band lineup will be released June 1. Admission is free. CAB is seeking business and personal donations to help support La Palma's Concerts Series. All donations are recognized in the weekly concert program. For more information, visit www.CityofLaPalma.org/Concerts.

Saturdays in August, at 6 p.m. in Central Park, 7821 Walker Street.

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Create a Garden Anywhere With Straw Bale Gardening

BY MELINDA MYERS

Add productive garden space and raise your planting bed with straw bale gardening. This technique allows you to create a raised bed garden on the patio, lawn, or poor compacted soil. Straw bale gardening has been around for centuries, but thanks to Joel Karsten's book Straw Bale Gardens it has gained new popularity.

All you need are a few straw bales, fertilizer, a bit of compost and time to condition, plant and water your garden.

Purchase straw bales made from alfalfa, wheat, oats, rye or other cereal that

STRAW BALE GARDENING has been around for centuries, all you need are a few straw bales, fertilizer, a bit of compost and time to condition, plant and water your garden.

have less weed seeds than hay. Start a few weeks before you plan to start planting.

Place bales in their permanent location with the cut sides up and twine parallel to the ground. When you start the condition process, they become very heavy and hard to move. Once the bales are in place, you are ready to start the conditioning process. This is done to start the inside of the straw bales composting, so they will support plant growth.

Day one spread fertilizer over the top



Cerritos Councilman Donates PPE to Cerritos HS



CERRITOS HIGH Principal Patrick Walker is all smiles after Cerritos Councilman Frank Yokoyama delivered boxes of hand sanitizer. Yokoyama also delivered sanitizer to Artesia HS and Juarez ES.

of the bale. Use one half cup of a complete garden fertilizer or three cups of an organic fertilizer, like Milorganite. The organic fertilizers feed the microorganisms that help decompose the straw into a nutrient rich planting medium. Now thoroughly moisten the bale with water.

Continue to thoroughly soak the bale every day. On days three and five you will also add more fertilizer at the same rate used on day one.

Days seven through nine use half the rate used on day one. This would be one quarter cup of a complete garden fertilizer or one and a half cups of an organic fertilizer. And once again thoroughly water the bale.

On day ten you will add one cup of 10-10-10 or three cups of an organic fertilizer rich in phosphorous and potassium. This completes the conditioning process.

Bales treated with a complete fertilizer should be ready to plant. You will likely need to wait a few more days when using an organic fertilizer. The inside of the bale

should be the temperature of warm bath water or cooler. If it is hotter than this, wait for the bale to cool a bit before planting.

Use a trowel to pry open a hole in the bale. Place the transplant in the hole and cover the roots solid. Create a planting bed for seeds by covering the bale with a one-to two-inch-thick layer of planting mix. Follow the planting directions on the back of the seed packet.

Regular watering is critical for success with this method. Soaker hoses or drip irrigation make this an easier task. You can also use gallon milk jugs with holes in the bottom or inverted 2-liter soda bottles placed near the base of each plant to provide water where it is needed.

Give your straw bale garden a nutrient boost about once a month or as needed throughout the growing season.

You are on your way to growing a productive straw bale garden to enjoy throughout the season.

Melida's web site can be found at melindamyers.com.



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BY LAURIE HANSON

Family-owned and operated, Dominic’s Ristorante Italiano in Cypress celebrates their 30th anniversary this year, remaining open during the worst of COVID-19 through teamwork, creative innovation, and a mother’s heart.

“It was a scary time, not knowing how we would sustain such a blow as well as being able to take care of our staff while trying to keep the doors open,” said General Manager Lisa Cisneros, the eldest daughter of owner Angela Cesario. “We immediately cut down on our staff, putting them on leave, hoping to just be able to have the family and a few key employees [in order] to help cut costs while anticipating a huge drop in sales. But [we] had to call them all back within the first few days once we realized the demand was still here.”

“[Our] family got together to discuss how we would move forward. During our family discussion, we decided to create some family meal options, offer curbside pickup, expanded our 3rd party delivery options and even added a pizza kit within the first few weeks,” said Cisneros.

"We morphed from one position to five. We now had a hot food bagger, cold food bagger, bag completer, a bread person, and a curbside person. We also had a phone person and cashier."

They continued their virtual wine tastings, “although it is not entirely the same, it gave our guests a little something to look forward to and they were unique and fun,” she added.

With each passing week, Cisneros has seen more people choosing to dine keeping their dine in tables socially distant.

The patio remains open for dining in, and their takeout business is ongoing as well.

A new feature to dining in is their onsite reservation system. The staff enters their name and cell phone number into a tablet which texts them when a table is ready.

Something else the restaurant came up with are “Take & Bake” catering trays, an idea born in May 2020 to help families plan a special Mother's Day.

“They are catering trays prepared ahead of time which can be picked up a day or two before, then baked in the oven with the instructions we provide. It makes a great option for our customers, and we have continued to offer this option ever since.”

Cisneros went on to say that many have chosen the “Take & Bake” catering for when they go out of town or camping, and for a Saturday or Sunday afternoon

event (when the restaurant is closed). It can even be given as gifts to family or friends who are struggling or who have had a loss, she said.

Their family meal deals, and take-home pizza kits have also been a huge hit especially because they come with Dominic’s own sauce and salad dressings, something that gives customers a little taste of Dominic's while cooking at home.

But at the heart of Dominic’s Ristorante Italiano is owner-mother Angela Cesario who leads operations with her adult children,

THE BAR AREA seats 12 people and has nine additional tables to comfortably seat customers indoors.

Lisa Cisneros, Gina Cesario, Francesca Cesario and their brother, Michael Cesario. Angela came from a small town in Sicily who immigrated to the United States as a child and eventually came of age in New York. She came to California in 1978.

“Many of our recipes began from her family recipes and have expanded over the years,” added Cisneros. Noteworthy are their unique homemade doughy bread sticks, which are made fresh from scratch each day.

In 1991, Angela started the restaurant with only a couple of employees as a pizzeria in a small strip mall on the corner of Ball Avenue and Walker Street on Cypress, next to the Hostess Wonder Bread Outlet (since gone).

In 1998, they more than doubled their size, having a total of 16 tables, and added a patio to accommodate the overflow. In 2017, they expanded adding a bar side with an additional nine tables and 12 bar seats.

"We have had so many new guests find us during this [pandemic], while also serving so many of our regulars and local people," said Cisneros.

“We feel that our regular and new customers are the ones to be praised as they knew it was a difficult time for many, especially small business owners,” she said. For that, words cannot express how grateful we are.”

For more information on Dominic’s Ristorante Italiano, please visit online at www.dominicscypress.com.

Three ABCUSD Administrators Recognized

The Association of California School Administrators, recently recognized this past May 11 three ABCUSD administrators for their roles in improving education.



From (l-r): Carol Castro, Dr. Valencia Mayfield II, and John Briquelet.

John Briquelet, Principal of Whitney High School, was recognized as the 2021 Secondary Principal of the Year. Over the past year, Mr. Briquelet led the school through the pandemic and bridged the equity gap on his campus. He will also be recognized during the first week in November 2021.

Carol Castro, Supervisor of Secondary Curriculum and Professional Development, is the 2021 Curriculum and Instruction Administrator of the Year. Her work in leading training for teachers as they moved into teaching online was

Dr. Valencia Mayfield II received the 2020 Valuing Diversity Award. Dr. Mayfield has led diversity and equity efforts in the District. She developed equity training for all staff, giving them a greater understanding of their peers and students.

“I congratulate Dr. Mayfield, Ms. Castro, and Mr. Briquelet for being recognized by ACSA, and all they do for our students,” said Superintendent Dr. Mary Sieu. “Their work before and during the pandemic has improved the quality of education we offer.”

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²American Queen Steamboat Company and Victory Cruise Lines \$100 Onboard Credit Offer: Valid on new AAA bookings made by 07/31/2021 for all 2021 and 2022 American Queen Steamboat Company and Victory Cruise Lines sailings. Offer is per person. Consecutive sailings for the same passenger will receive the applicable onboard credit amount for each leg. Onboard credits have no cash value, cannot be applied to gratuities and are non-transferable.

³American Queen Steamboat Company AAA Vacations® Member Benefit: \$100 discount is per booking and taken at time of booking.

⁴Victory Cruise Lines Member Benefit: \$25 per booking discount valid on Canada and New England, Great Lakes, and Southeast USA itineraries booked through Pleasant Holidays; \$50 per booking discount valid on Mexico itineraries booked through Pleasant Holidays. Discount is taken at time of booking.

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605 LEAGUE BASKETBALL

Cerritos boys becoming the kings of three-year old league, capture first place again

BY LOREN KOPFF
@LORENKOPFF ON TWITTER

When a new league forms, someone has to set the standards of being the team to beat in a particular sport; a team that everyone else circles on their calendars as its biggest one of that season and is looking forward to playing. The Cerritos High boys basketball team has become the one that the other five members of the 605 League has been itching to knock off from the top spot since the formation of the league in 2018-2019 school year.

The Dons clinched their third straight league title by edging Pioneer High 47-46

last Friday night, sweeping the Titans this season and running their three-year league record to 27-1. Prior to the game, the Dons had been beating league opponents by an average score of 66.5-56.5, but the win over the Titans was the third of the 28 league games decided by less than 10.

“It’s just all the hard work our kids do,” said Cerritos co-head coach Kevin Enomoto. “They put in the work every year, and this year was a little different. We didn’t have the whole year to work. But when we started our season back in March, they were all there ready to put the work in. I credit them. The seniors did a good job today kind of finishing this game. When

they were freshmen, they lost to Pioneer when they were on the freshmen team. We kind of had a feeling that in four years, this was going to be a good game, and it was.”

“When we made the switch [from the Suburban League], it was like new teams to play,” said Cerritos senior guard Alexander Archer. “So, it was just getting a win every night. It may not be the best competition, but you don’t want to drop a game. You just want to keep that every night is a new game; just come in and try to get a win.”

Cerritos lost to the Titans 48-40 in the third game of the inaugural season of the league and in the next game, it edged Artesia 47-46. Since then, the Dons have scored at least 50 points in every league contest until last Friday night.

The Dons scored the first seven points of the game and extended their lead to 11 points on a free throw from sophomore Andrew Hartman with 1:35 left in the first quarter. Pioneer would chip away and when Matthew Lopez hit a three-pointer with 4:48 remaining in the first half, the game was knotted at 16-16. Cerritos closed out the half on a 7-4 run and would maintain a single-digit lead for the rest of the game.

The momentum the Dons had in the final minutes of the first half carried over into the beginning of the second half as seniors Obinna Ene and Brian Lee combined for the team’s first nine points to extend the lead to 32-24, the largest advantage the hosts had in the second half.

One big factor in the game came in rebounding where the Dons were dominate for 32 minutes, grabbing 43 boards. Ene had a dozen rebounds to go along with eight points while Archer added 11 rebounds and led the team with 10 points. Hartman also had 10 points and three rebounds. All five starters had at least one rebound and Lee, who came off the bench to score seven points, pitched in with four rebounds.

“A lot of shots were put up today because both teams were itching to get a win today,” Archer said. “We’re the small in our division for playoffs, so we just work on boxing out and fighting for every loose ball and fighting for every rebound.”

“It’s something that we always talk about; making sure we block out and get the boards,” Enomoto said of the rebounding. “They do a good job of going after rebounds and especially against a team like Pioneer, where they have guys going after rebounds as well. The first time we played them, that’s how they scored a lot of their points; off putbacks, and we had to make sure they didn’t get any easy ones today.”

Cerritos was up 39-36 entering the fourth quarter, but both teams would alternate baskets, and two free throws from Hartman for most of the stanza as the lead was never greater than five points. With 54.6 seconds left, Ene scored on a pass from Archer to make it 47-42. But 10 seconds later, Gabriel Rios made it a one-possession contest. A turnover with 31.6 seconds remaining allowed the Titans to set up for at least a game-tying three pointer. Instead, Maxwell Rodriguez-Smith scored a two-pointer with 5.6 seconds left before Pioneer called a timeout. By now, it would have been tough for the Titans to get the ball back because they had only four team fouls in the half and would foul two more times in the waning seconds before getting any chance of Cerritos potentially missing a free throw.

“Basically, we needed to play with poise,” Enomoto told his team at the last Pioneer timeout. “We have to understand that when the game is on the line, we have to play with poise. We have to trust each other; we just have to finish it.”

“They were getting a lot of steals because early on, we were making bad passes,” Archer said. “So, it was just about every time they score, just try to slow the

ball down, keep control of the game so we don’t drop this one.”

Cerritos blasted John Glenn High 71-31 this past Tuesday night to improve to 10-3 overall, 9-0 in league as it ended the regular season at home on May 20 against Oxford Academy. The CIF-Southern Section basketball playoff brackets will be released on Sunday morning as the Dons are expected to get a Division 2AA first round home game on Wednesday.

Prior to the game, the Lady Dons kept Pioneer from running the tables in league action and avenged an earlier 23-point loss by holding off a furious late rally to come away with a 55-49 victory. Coupled with a 38-31 win at Glenn this past Tuesday night, followed by a 38-32 setback to Whitney High the next night, Cerritos saw its overall mark go to 7-7 and its league record to 6-3, enough for third place. The loss was the first for Pioneer in eight league contests.

Cerritos head coach Marcus Chinen said the win over the leaders of the league can give his team a lot of confidence going into next week’s playoffs, but added that the team can’t be overconfident yet because the team of no seniors is still learning how each other plays and they’re still trying to get the rotation right.

In the first meeting on Apr. 27, the Titans routed the Lady Dons 78-55, but were clinging to a 19-15 advantage after the first quarter. The rematch would be a completely different story as Cerritos began on a 13-2 tear and led 14-5 after the opening stanza. After Pioneer cut into the lead with six straight points to begin the second quarter, Cerritos went on a 12-2 run to lead by 13 points, highlighted by a steal and basket from junior Jasmine Uy with 1:46 left in the half. Midway in the quarter, she would score off a steal and assist from junior Michelle Lee. Uy would score 17 of her game-high 23 points in the first half.

“That is the key to pretty much most of the games we’ve played,” said Cerritos head coach Marcus Chinen. “If you get out to a fast start and you can maintain that lead, it can determine the outcome.”

“I think just by having a veteran out there...we have no seniors on the team, so somebody is going to have to step up,” Chinen later said of Uy. “And whether it’s a junior or a sophomore, someone would have to step up. I think once she stepped up and she took the leadership spot on the court at that time, I think everyone started playing with a little bit more confidence.”

Cerritos had what seemed to be a comfortable 15-point lead at the half and maintained that double-digit lead throughout most of the third quarter. But the Titans owned the fourth quarter and cut their deficit to four points with 3:31 left in the game. The Lady Dons would get baskets from freshman Mia Rivera and Uy over the next two minutes to make it a seven-point advantage at 50-43. But Pioneer refused to go away and when Aubry Saleapaga scored off a turnover with 30.7 seconds left, it was 50-48. Cerritos, though, would ice the game on free throws.

“We kept telling the girls that they needed to dig in,” Chinen said. “chip away at it and don’t try to get it back in chunks.”

Freshman sensation Onyeka Nwanze scored a dozen points and grabbed 14 rebounds while Rivera and junior Madhuri Suresh both came off the bench to score six points. For Pioneer, Saleapaga led the way with 21 points, all but three coming in the second half.

Cerritos hosted Oxford Academy on May 20 in the league finale and will also visit Corona Del Mar High on Saturday. “I think this time we stepped it up on the defensive side,” Chinen said. “They are a fast team; so, to try to keep that up the entire game, we get winded and at that time, I believe they were actually in really good shape.”

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Valley Christian Basketball Teams Sweeps Whittier Christian to Move Closer to Third Place

BY LOREN KOPFF

While the Valley Christian High boys basketball team entered the week ranked third in the CIF-Southern Section Division 3AA poll, it was situated in a tie for fourth place in the Olympic League. But a 63-53 home win over Whittier Christian High changed that and now, the Defenders are a game out of third place with one to play.

V.C. trailed for most of the first quarter and was down 13-8 entering the second quarter where the game changed quick. A pair of free throws from freshman Michael Wright gave the hosts their second lead of the game at 19-18, capping an 11-5 run. The half ended when sophomore D.J. Harrington had a steal and assisted to senior Sirr Favors to give V.C. a 27-24 lead.

The momentum would continue in the third quarter as the Defenders went on a 13-8 run the first 4:48 and never looked back. Wright led the Defenders with 15 points and had six rebounds while junior Nathan Medina scored 14 points and grabbed 10 rebounds. Favors also had 14 points and three steals as the team ended a four-game losing streak. V.C. (9-6 overall, 2-5 in league) would need to defeat Village Christian High tonight to tie idle Maranatha High for third place.

Prior to the game, the Lady Defenders also had to stage a rally, but this one came later that the boys. Down by as many as eight points with 5:54 remaining in the first half, Valley Christian rode the hands of senior Jordan Ebalo who guided the Lady Defenders to a 48-32 victory. Ebalo scored nine points on three of six field goal shooting in the second quarter to get her team back in the game.

Junior Samantha Sims had one of her three rebounds and her lone assist to Ebalo with 2:04 left in the half to give the Lady Defenders their second lead of the game. Ebalo nine of her game-high 19 points in the stanza and also had 11 rebounds and five assists. If that wasn't bad enough for Whittier Christian, senior Makani Kane was basically lights out in the third quarter, hitting on three straight three-pointers within the first 2:04 of the second half as V.C. opened a 27-22 lead.

Then in the fourth quarter, the Lady Defenders scored the first 12 points to blow the game wide open. Kane added a dozen points and four rebounds as the team improved to 7-8 overall, 3-4 in the circuit and will also host Village Christian tonight. A win by the Lady Defenders and a Whittier Christian loss to Heritage Christian High will force a three-way tie for second place in the league.

In other basketball action, the regular season ends on Saturday with the playoff brackets being released on Sunday morning. The Artesia High boys team knocked off Pioneer High 55-46 this past Wednesday to force a second place tie with the Titans in the 605 League. The Pioneers (15-6, overall, 6-3 in league) are ranked 12th in Division 4AA and hosted John Glenn High on May 20.

The La Mirada High boys team defeated Summit High 61-42 this past Tuesday to improve to 7-7 overall. The Matadores will host Norwalk High tonight in the Suburban League hoping to lock down second place. The Lancers, who fell to first place Mayfair High 56-27 this past Wednesday, enter the contest at 4-6 overall, 2-3 in league.

Whitney High had a busy final week of the season, making up games that had been previously postponed. The Wildcats lost to Pioneer 70-51 this past Monday but defeated Oxford Academy 61-57 this past Tuesday. The Wildcats (4-9 overall, 3-5 in league) then hosted Pioneer on May 20 and will travel to Glenn tonight to wrap up the regular season.



NEWS &
NOTES
FROM
PRESS
ROW

HMG-CN Sports Editor
Loren Kopff

On a side note from the boys, Gahr High will miss the postseason for the third time in the last four seasons after entering this week with a 2-8 overall mark and winless in six San Gabriel Valley League contests. Also, Glenn began the week winless in seven games, all coming in league action, and will be absent from the playoffs for the seventh straight season and 20th time in the past 21 seasons.

In girls basketball action, Whitney had games in every day this week beginning with a 50-41 win over Artesia this past Monday. The Lady Wildcats then came away with a 56-45 win against Oxford Academy this past Tuesday and a 38-32 win against Cerritos High the next night to improve to 9-5 overall and 7-1 in league. The Lady Wildcats hosted Pioneer on May 20 and will visit Glenn tonight.

SOFTBALL

Cerritos moved closer to its fourth straight league title, this in the 605 League, after blasting Whitney 16-0 this past Tuesday on the road. Junior pitcher Erin Gibbs tossed a perfect game, striking out 12 of the 15 batters she faced. The other three outs were a pair of comebackers to Gibbs and a pop-up. The Lady Dons improved to 15-1 overall, 7-0 in league. Junior first baseman Samiya Jones went two for two, scored twice and drove in a pair of runs while senior catcher Leiloni Pina, junior second baseman Katelyn Caneda and junior shortstop Jadyn Nielsen all hit home runs. The Lady Dons hosted Pioneer on May 20 and will conclude the regular season at Glenn on Monday, home against Oxford Academy on Wednesday and at North Torrance High on Thursday.

Glenn is tied for second place with Pioneer, two games behind Cerritos, after the Lady Eagles were doubled up by Pioneer 16-8 this past Tuesday. Glenn (8-2, 5-2), which has not been to the playoffs since 1990 and has not had a winning record since 2004, will visit Oxford Academy today and visit Artesia on Wednesday.

Gahr, which is ranked 10th in Division 1, blanked Dominguez High 23-0 this past Tuesday on a combined no-hitter. The Lady Gladiators improved to 12-5 overall, 5-2 in the San Gabriel Valley League as they went to Lynwood High on May 20 and will wrap up the regular season by hosting league-leading Warren High on Tuesday and visiting Paramount High on Thursday.

La Mirada has won six straight games after completing a home and home sweep of Mayfair High, winning 8-0 last Friday while Norwalk defeated Bellflower High 10-3 this past Tuesday to improve to 6-6 overall, 3-2 in league. The two teams will meet today at Bellflower before ending the regular season at La Mirada Tuesday and Thursday.

BOYS VOLLEYBALL

First round action began this past Tuesday with Cerritos, ranked 10th in Division 3, defeated Millikan High 25-18, 25-23, 11-25, 25-23 in first round action this past Tuesday. The Dons were home to St. Francis High on May 20.

V.C., the second ranked team in Division 4, knocked off Gahr High 25-16, 25-12, 25-9 this past Tuesday and entertained Hillcrest High on May 20 while in Division 5, Whitney upset Rialto High on the road 25-7, 25-7, 25-18 and hosted top-ranked Martin Luther King High on May 20.

See **NEWS AND NOTES** next column

CIF-SOUTHERN SECTION DIVISION 7 BOYS SOCCER PLAYOFFS

Defense Carries Whitney Into Semifinals for First Time, Wildcats to Face Division’s Top Team

BY LOREN KOPFF

Whitney High’s boys soccer team has gone though an interesting season, to say the least. The Wildcats, with four girls as part of their 18-member squad, didn’t play a non-league contest but still did enough to finish in a tie for second place in the 605 League.

Two key components for Whitney’s success in this pandemic season have been a solid defense and the foot of senior forward Rodrigo Mecal and those two powered the Wildcats to a 1-0 win over fourth-ranked Mary Star of the Sea High this past Wednesday in the CIF-Southern Section Division 7 quarterfinals. The sixth-ranked Wildcats, who improved to 8-2-1, will now host top-ranked University Prep, a 3-2 winner against Apple Valley High, in Saturday’s semifinals. University Prep, the champions of the Cross Valley League, will enter the game at 11-0-1. It’s the first time any Whitney boys soccer team has advanced to the semifinals.

“Since the beginning of the year, we knew it was a special year,” said Whitney first-year head coach Juan Luis Arevalo. “Again, we ended up having a coed team, which even made it more special and just the fact that the boys brought them in, and the girls had to be brave enough to play with the boys...I think it kind of foreshadowed the type of the season we were going to have.”

The outcome of the game could have changed in the 78th minute, though, had it not been for a missed penalty shot. Fighting off several Mary Star players as they were furiously attempting to notch the tying goal, senior goalkeeper Salvador Ortiz was called for a penalty when he unintentionally barreled over a player in the box. That set the stage for Jose Urdiano, who was Mary Star’s goalkeeper in the first half, to take the penalty kick. But he kicked it wide right of the net to preserve the win. Moments later, a member of the Mary Star coaching staff could be heard saying, ‘I had told Bryan [Saldana] to take the kick, but it’s the player’s decision’. Over the next several minutes, which included stoppage time, the Stars continued to attack the goal but to no avail.

“I don’t know if it was destiny or not; you saw them miss the penalty, but we’ll take it,” Arevalo said. “Sometimes in games, it’s not who’s the best. Sometimes luck has to do with it. Thank god luck was on our side today.”

Whitney, which had previously fallen in the quarterfinals in the 2008-2009,

2009-2010 and 2016-2017 seasons, were limited to three shots on goal in the first half. The best chance came two minutes into the contest when a free kick off the foot of senior forward Humberto Ortiz sailed above the crossbar. Three minutes later, a header from Mary Star’s Fabian Sanchez, went into the waiting arms of Salvador Ortiz.

Throughout the game, the Stars were gaining the upper hand on the offensive side, taking more shots on goal and spending a lot of time on Whitney’s side of the goal. But all season long, the Wildcats have been a defensive team, posting five shutouts before the quarterfinals and yielding 12 goals in the previous 10 games, though five goals came against Artesia High on Apr. 29.

“Unfortunately, at Whitney, we don’t have much soccer experienced players,” Arevalo said. “The easiest thing to do as any player who is starting to play, is defense. Half of our team does not have the ball skills necessarily to be a little bit more offensive. So, we focus more on defense. Our motto is we can’t lose if they can’t score in us.”

The lone tally of the game came in the 59th minute when sophomore midfielder Koa DeLeon, one of the four female players, fed a pass to Mecal on the left side of the field whose beautiful shot went between the near post and goalkeeper Itzman Casillas. It was Mecal’s team-leading 14th goal of the season while three other players have combined for Whitney’s seven other goals this season. Mecal has scored in all three playoff games and seven of the 11 games.

“Rodrigo was a pleasant surprise,” Arevalo said. “In the beginning [of the season], we knew he had the skills, but once the season started and after the first game, it was just something special to see. Everybody gravitates to him; his personality is good [and] he’s not selfish. So, I think that has a lot to do with the players feeding him the ball. It’s no secret that he’s our MVP. Where he goes is the way the team goes. If he is good and healthy, I think our chances are pretty good to make it to the finals.”

The winner of the Saturday’s game will face the winner of the Duarte High/Sierra Canyon High contest on May 28 or 29. Sierra Canyon (12-2-0), champions of the Gold Coast League, is the second ranked team in the division while Duarte (8-3-0), the second place representative out of the Montview League, is ranked third and has shutout its three playoff opponents.



NEWS AND NOTES

BOYS TENNIS

First round matches began on May 20 with Cerritos visiting Trabuco Hills High in Division 2 action. The winner will travel to fourth-ranked Los Osos High on Saturday. In Division 3, Whitney travelled to Milken Community High with the victor going to second ranked Marina High on Saturday while Gahr went to Magnolia High. The

winner of that match will face the survivor of the Arrowhead Christian High/Coachella Valley High match on Saturday. Arrowhead Christian is ranked third in Division 4.

GIRLS TENNIS

In Division 3 action, Cerritos fell to Trabuco Hills 17-1 while Whitney, which had defeated Capistrano Valley High 10-8 last Wednesday, was eliminated by Fountain Valley High last Friday. In Division 4, V.C. was ousted by J.W. North High 12-6 last Wednesday.

PICO RIVERA from page 1

“The City has indeed been able to experience more positive results than initial expectations and through this latest quarter, now shows signs of recovery,” management wrote in the report.

Through the first nine months of the fiscal year, sales tax is trending 4 percent (\$501,000) higher than last year.

Revenues through the third quarter totaled \$27 million; that number is 3 percent, nearly \$943,000, compared to last year, but over \$903,000 came from the CARES Act.

Most economists attribute the rise in revenues to increased consumer confidence after the presidential election, which drove up sales in higher-priced “luxury” goods. Good weather, and an increase in online shopping while residents were sheltering in place meant a consistent allocation of sales tax from State and County pools.

The property tax roll, the second largest general fund revenue source, rose 4.9 percent, slightly less than the increase countywide at 6.1 percent. The median sale price of a single family home for March 2021 was \$580,000, compared to \$520,000 as of March 2020 an 11 percent increase.

In other revenue areas, the utility users tax is up 4 percent - or \$81,000 - compared to the same period last year; parks and recreation revenues saw a significant reduction of \$330,000 primarily due to the cancellation of events and in-person services; licenses and permits, which includes business license tax revenue is 35 percent higher than last year, an over \$589,000 increase.

The cost side of the ledger saw 2020 total expenditures of \$28.6 million compared to \$29.9 million in 2019, a decrease of \$1.3 million. Most expenses we’re down across the board in every major city department

with the exception of Finance, the increase attributed to a new accounting system.

This was more good news for the city its management team, extrapolating revenues and expenses out to year end shows the city generating a \$2.1 surplus

ARTESIA from page 1

gatherings once again in accordance health guidelines. Fields will be open for reservations for youth sports training and conditioning programs with limited outdoor recreation classes and sports programs having already resumed.

City Council has taken up meeting in person at the Albert O. Little Community Center, although the public must continue to attend virtually.

Phase II will roll out on June 21. City Hall will be open to the general public without appointments during regular business hours. Indoor recreation classes will resume in accordance with public health guidelines and outdoor facilities will be made available for reservations and additional activities.

By July 12, Phase III will see City Council resume meeting in person at City Hall with the public finally allowed to attend in person meetings.

Finally, the city is looking at a fire-works show on Jul. 4.

The Pyro Spectaculars 2021 proposal includes a manually fired fireworks show that will last approximately 18-20 minutes; there is an increase the number fire-works over last year.

The city continues to review changes in the county orders and brainstorm strategies for hosting large scale events while following protocols.

The city continues to review updated tier protocols along with any new an-

nouncements from the state in the coming weeks to develop a plan for any additional permitted activities for the 2021 4th of July Event.

HARASSMENT from page 1

out the covert actions of city employees to keep Licon’s harassment secret, “Plaintiffs are further informed and believe that Defendants (employees of the city), acted in concert in furtherance of the interests of each other.’

Suniga and Raya’s complaint alleges that from October 2016 to January 2018, Licon subjected Raya to comments "about her physical appearance, leering, unwanted advances, and other sexual harassing conduct."

In January 2018, Raya reported Licon to human resources, an investigation ensued with Suniga agreeing to an interview, substantiating Raya’s complaints.

Suniga and Raya described Licon the same way Gonzalez did; the self-declared boss of City Hall whom no one would touch because of his “connections.”

During the investigation, Licon learned that Gonzalez was set to testify as a witness. According to Gonzalez, Licon accosted her outside City Hall trying to intimidate her into false witness.

All woman allege that Licon subsequently interfered in the Raya investigation then “covered-up” the results so he could remain an employee of the city; no further actions were taken against Licon.

Testified and Demoted

The accusations of misusing AFSCME union funds by Licon surfaced in February 2019.

The allegations were first reported by HMG-CN who obtained the misuse inquiry

from a source. Licon was fond of saying he had “pull” with the Moskowitz family, owners of the Gardens Casino, but he didn’t, according to sources close to the family.

The Moskowitz’ gave thousands to the union run by Licon, funds that Licon was accused of misusing and “passing around like candy.”

The fraud accusations were backed up by witnesses and documents, so the AFSCME executives were forced to take over and place the local into receivership.

A receivership is a court-appointed tool that can assist creditors to recover funds and can help troubled companies avoid bankruptcy.

Suniga and Raya were union members and testified to what they saw were violations of local, state, federal and IRS laws in regard to Licon and the union funds.

The lawyers documented the women’s testimony which was given to the city and Licon, with sources telling HMG-CN that it made Licon “extremely angry.”

Within the next few months, Raya (in July 2020) was moved from her HR position to Public Safety without warning.

In the same manner, Suniga (in September 2020) was “laid off” then assigned a lower position with Licon taking over her job. Both women received a cut in pay.

Raya was later demoted again and transferred to the Finance Department, given job duties “as a receptionist.”

In October 2020, HMG-CN exclusively obtained the report which found Licon guilty of financial fraud for misusing union funds; he was suspended from the union for four years.

But somehow City Manager Ernie Hernandez, who recently left for the same position in Lynwood, and HR Manager Patrick Mason, did not fire or suspend Licon, allowing him to retain his lucrative position at City Hall.

According to Transparent California, Licon earned nearly \$103,000 as a code enforcement officer in 2019.

Whistleblower

In the complaint, the plaintiffs also contend they were protected under the whistleblower status code after they complained about Licon in 2018, which made any employment related actions by the city illegal after 2018.

The move sets the two up for treble (triple) monetary damages under the California Labor Code.

Now Hawaiian Gardens residents can look forward to Licon, Hernandez, Mason, and other city employees, including some elected officials, getting subpoenaed by Greg Smith for depositions.

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WONDERWORD

By DAVID
OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: First, read the list of words, then look at the puzzle. The words are found in all directions - vertically, horizontally, diagonally, backward. Circle each letter of a word found and strike it off the list. The letters are often used more than once so do not cross them out. It is best to find the big words first. When you find all the words listed in the clues you'll have a number of letters left over that spell out the WONDERWORD. To see the answer use the link below the puzzle.

Family Minded

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D T R B O E E D L E I E P P L
N S E A M O N F T N G H E I O
E I T O H A T S I G E R N H V
F M H E B S I S N W E K D S I
E E G S P S O I T H O N S N N
D H U G E M R N T N E R E O G
C H A D R P E A S P E L G I U
O R D P S A F M E R I R A N N
U O T F D D N D B N E S A A I
S N F R T N O N E E E H M P O
I O C N I O A A Y N R E T M N
N H U L L B G R E L A T I O N
S A S B E E E G G D L I H C M

Ages, Aunt, Blood, Bond, Brother, Child, Companionship, Cousins, Daughter, Defend, Depend, Father, Feud, Generation, Genes, Grandpa, Granny, Grow, Heir, Home, Honor, Huge, Husband, Lineage, Link, Loving, Member, Mister, Mother, Name, Nephew, Niece, Offspring, Parents, Pets, Relation, Roots, Share, Sister, Sons, Teens, Tree, Tribe, Uncle, Union, Wife.

Solution: 8 letters

OC FAIR EVENTS AND CONCERTS

The 2021 OC Fair is July 16-Aug. 15, open Wednesday-Sunday. Advance tickets are required and there will be limited capacity each day, with extended hours and more elbow room for guests. FAQs about this year's OC Fair: ocfair.com/faqs-about-the-2021-oc-fair/

OC Brew Hee Haw at Pacific Amphitheatre July 23-24, three sessions

Previously scheduled for July 16-18 in The Hangar, OC Brew Hee Haw will now take place in an outdoor area of the Pacific Amphitheatre on July 23 & 24.

There will be one session on Friday, July 23, at 7 p.m. (6 p.m. for VIP), featuring Burritos – A Tribute to Sublime.

There will be two sessions on Saturday, July 24: 1:30 p.m. (12:30 p.m. for VIP), featuring Twisted Gypsy – Fleetwood Mac With A Twist; and 7:30 p.m. (6:30 p.m. for VIP), featuring Idol X – The Billy Idol Live Experience.

Tickets range in price from \$45 to \$70 and are on sale now on Ticketmaster.

Those who purchased tickets for the July 16 event at The Hangar can use them on July 23 at Pacific Amphitheatre (no further action required), or request a refund; similarly, those who purchased tickets for the July 17 sessions at The Hangar can

use them for the same session on July 24 at Pacific Amphitheatre (no further action required), or request a refund. Those who purchased tickets for July 18 will be contacted by OC Fair staff to arrange for a July 23 or 24 session, or a refund. For more information about everyone's favorite beer tasting event, visit ocbrewheehaw.com.

The Fab Four at Pacific Amphitheatre Sunday, Aug. 8, 5 and 8:30 p.m.

The Beatles tribute band The Fab Four will perform two different shows on Aug. 8 at Pacific Amphitheatre: at 5 p.m., they'll honor the 55th anniversary of Revolver; at 8:30 p.m. they'll celebrate the 50th anniversary of Let It Be.

Tickets for each show range in price from \$22.50 to \$35 and will go on sale this Saturday, May 22, at 10 a.m. Tickets include same-day Fair admission.

Dead Man's Party – The Oingo Boingo Tribute at The Hangar Friday, July 16, 4:30 and 8:30 p.m.

Tickets for each showtime are \$20-\$25 and include same-day Fair admission. On sale Saturday, May 22, at 10 a.m. on Ticketmaster.

ABBA L.A. at The Hangar Sat., July 17, 4:30 and 8:30 p.m.

Tickets for the 4:30 p.m. showtime are \$17.50-\$22.50; 8:30 p.m. showtime are \$20-\$25. Tickets include same-day

Fair admission and go on sale Saturday, May 22, at 10 a.m. on Ticketmaster.

Damage Inc. – Southern California's Tribute to Metallica and Noise Pollution – The AC/DC Experience at The Hangar Sun., July 18, 4:30 and 8:30 p.m.

Tickets for each showtime are \$17.50-\$22.50 and include same-day Fair admission. On sale Saturday, May 22, at 10 a.m. on Ticketmaster.

Twisted Gypsy – Fleetwood Mac With a Twist at The Hangar Sunday, July 25, 4:30 and 8:30 p.m.

Tickets for the 4:30 p.m. showtime are \$17.50-\$22.50; 8:30 p.m. showtime are \$20-\$25. Tickets include same-day Fair admission and go on sale Saturday, May 22, at 10 a.m. on Ticketmaster.

Arena – The Duran Duran Tribute Show and Totally Go-Go's – A Musical Tribute to the Go-Go's at The Hangar Friday, July 30, 4:30 and 8:30 p.m.

Tickets for the 4:30 p.m. showtime are \$17.50-\$22.50; 8:30 p.m. showtime are \$20-\$25. Tickets include same-day Fair admission and go on sale Saturday, May 22, at 10 a.m. on Ticketmaster.

Tickets to concerts/special events are available online only through Ticketmaster and include same-day admission to the 2021 OC Fair.

FUNDING from page 1

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Insufficient federal aid and stateand local austerity under similar fiscal pressures during the Great Recession and its aftermath undermined and slowed the nation's broader recovery.

The steps the Biden Administration has taken to aid state, local, territorial, and Tribal governments will create jobs and help fuel a strong recovery.

And support for communities hardest-hit by this crisis can help undo racial inequities and other disparities that have held too many places back for too long. Visit Treasury.gov for more info.

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George Gascon Recall Petition Approved

Victims and Los Angeles residents are fighting for justice and the safety of their communities.

STAFF REPORT

Petitions for the recall of Los Angeles District Attorney George Gascon have been approved by the L.A. County Registrar and are now available for public circulation and signature gathering. The petitions will be available for download at recallgeorgegascon.com/petition within the next twenty-four hours.

To successfully trigger a recall election, proponents must collect 579,062 signatures from registered voters in Los Angeles County (10 percent of the total number of registered voters) within a 160-day period.

The deadline for signature collection is October 27, 2021. If successful, a recall election would likely take place in 2022.

"George Gascon got elected by disguising a radical, dangerous, and pro-criminal agenda as ‘criminal justice reform,’ but that’s not what he is doing,” said Desiree Andrade, organizer and spokesperson for the Recall George Gascon campaign.

What he failed to mention was that he would cater to the most heinous offenders in our society at the expense of victims and let cold-blooded killers back onto our streets. We have no choice but to seek Gascon’s immediate removal from office because his twisted social experiment is jeopardizing the safety of our communities and revictimizing victims and their families all over again.”

“The outpouring of support for the recall movement and our fight to bring justice for victims has truly been amazing and is growing everyday as more residents learn about the destructive real-world impacts of Gascon’s policies,” said Tania Owen, Co-Chair for the Recall George Gascon campaign. “George Gascon has turned his back on victims and is failing to protect his constituents, so we are taking matters into our own hands. If you want to help make our community a safer place, please visit recallgeorgegascon.com and sign up to volunteer, donate, or download

ROSE HILLS from page 1

Network, so that we could continue to care for our families. We wanted to provide a de-stressing activity for them to participate in,” stated Antoinette Lou, Director of Community Relations and Communications.

Coordinator of Human Resources Melody Presumido had wanted to put some type of artwork in the employee area initially and wanted an artist to come and dedicate something to their associates, “but when this idea was brought up to the team, the collaboration came together. Years from now, people will remember what we went through as a team.”

This is especially fitting for these unsung heroes, “one of the things that my family had done a couple years ago was to attend the La Quinta Art Festival. One of the events we participated in was a large California themed mural. When Human Resources began to talk about what we could do for the staff to show our appreciation for all they have done, the mural came up,” said Jason McHugh Project Manager for Cemetery Development, “This area is a large employee area and just about everyone parks back here. We have around 700 employees and we thought mounting the painting where they could see it every day was the best idea.”



a petition – we are going to need all of the support and volunteer efforts we can get to be successful.”

Recall organizers – Victims of Violent Crime for the Recall of District Attorney Gascon – will be hosting a press conference at the Los Angeles Hall of Justice in the coming days to formally kick-off the petition drive.

The grass roots effort to recall George Gascon is supported by crime victims and their families, victims’ rights advocates, former law enforcement officials, and current and former prosecutors, including: Los Angeles County Sheriff Alex Villanueva, former Los Angeles District Attorney Steve Cooley, former Los Angeles City Councilman Dennis Zine, former Los Angeles County Supervisor Michael Antonovich, Commissioner of Arcadia Burton Brink, former National Director for the Office for Victims of Crime John W. Gillis, Retired Deputy Chief of the Los Angeles Police Department Bob Green, Mayor of Palmdale Steve Hofbauer, leading expert in rescuing child sex trafficking victims Dr. Lois Lee, former Assistant City Prosecutor for the City of Long Beach Timothy O’Reilly, Mayor of Lancaster R. Rex Parris, Fresno County District Attorney Lisa Smittcamp, Kern County District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer, and many others.

City Councils across Los Angeles County have passed votes of no confidence George Gascon, including: Whittier, Beverly Hills, Rosemead, La Mirada, Lancaster, Pico Rivera, Covina, Santa Clarita, Azusa, Santa Fe Springs, Diamond Bar, Redondo Beach, Arcadia, Manhattan Beach.

For the latest updates on the Recall George Gascon campaign, or to volunteer, download a petition, or contribute, please visit recallgeorgegascon.com.

Peter Tiglers’ work ranges from large-scale public works viewed by thousands daily to portraits hanging in private homes, he brings a unique vision and a variety of influences to his dramatic, recognizable pieces. Working in everything from traditional mediums like oils to cutting-edge computer imaging, Tigler has demonstrated a willingness to meet any artistic challenge.

"People come to me because I'm good at assessing the visual needs of a project. I can deliver a strong image and I know color. I can work with the various media, traditional and computer based,” remarked Tigler, “here we have taken one mural and divided it into four panels and separated it for social distancing. It commemorates the associates who worked tirelessly during the COVID crisis. A marker, if you will and a thank you ... a reminder that it took team work.”

The method of painting is a paint-by-number finger painting. Most employees will spend about 20 minutes, “everyone remembers finger painting in school, so it is not a hard concept. The only difference is that this is a more sophisticated image,” added Tigler. “In an era when technology and all things digital have most of us looking at a screen, finger painting is more primitive. It takes us make to a time that was simpler.”

City of Pico Rivera Municipal Water System

NOTICE OF WATER RATE INCREASE

April 30, 2021

Notice is hereby given that at a public meeting the Pico Rivera City Council will hold a public hearing on **Tuesday, June 22, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.** at City Hall, 6615 Passons Blvd, Pico Rivera, California, to consider **proposed increases to the water rates and charges** applicable to the City's Municipal Water System, the Pico Rivera Water Authority (PRWA).

As a public agency, the revenues collected from rates must adequately fund PRWA operations, maintenance, capital improvement projects, and compliance with existing or new State of California regulations; mitigate droughts; and meet environmental standards. The immediate needs over the next five years include:

- Ensure Safe Drinking Water: PRWA needs to continue investing in water treatment and testing techniques to ensure drinking water remains safe for current and future customers.
- Rebuild an Aging Water System: Upgrade operational efficiencies with approximately 112 specific projects, such as upgrading water wells, water pipes, and altitude valves.

PUBLIC NOTICE REQUIREMENT. California State Law requires the mailing of notices to record property owners (no less than 45 days in advance of a hearing) of a proposed modification to water rates.

PROPOSED CHARGES

The City of Pico Rivera is your water service provider. The present charges have been in effect since June 30, 2018. The City proposes to increase the charges beginning July 1, 2021.

ACTUAL CHARGE FOR YOUR SERVICE ADDRESS. Using a 5/8 inch water meter as an example (which represents 86.4% of all meters), the service charge imposed will increase from \$37.06 bi-monthly to \$37.76 bi-monthly, and the commodity charge imposed will increase from \$3.91 per 100 cubic feet of water used to \$4.32 per 100 cubic feet (hcf) of water used, for the first 10% increase starting July 1, 2021. The actual total charge which will be imposed through the bill for water service is calculated by adding the service charge to the amount of the commodity charge multiplied by the amount of water used at your property. **The net increase to your water bill is estimated to be \$6.42 monthly, \$12.83 bi-monthly, or \$153.98 per year, based on 12 hcf.**

CURRENT AND PROPOSED CHARGES. The charge for water service has two components: a flat service charge and a commodity charge. The service charge applies to each service connection to cover costs connected with the ability to make water immediately available to your service address. The service charge covers utility costs, labor and the cost for equipment and materials, reading meters, preparing and mailing bills and notices, repair and maintenance to the water system, and other fixed costs of providing service. The commodity charge is the rate charged per 100 cubic feet and is directly related to the amount of water actually used. These are the current and proposed charges:

Meter Size	Meter Service		Commodity per 100 cubic feet	
	Current	Proposed	Current	Proposed
5/8"	\$37.06	\$37.76	\$3.91	\$4.32
3/4"	\$37.06	\$37.76	\$3.91	\$4.32
1"	\$49.47	\$59.04	\$3.91	\$4.32
1 1/2"	\$91.38	\$73.22	\$3.91	\$4.32
2"	\$138.40	\$144.14	\$3.91	\$4.32
3"	\$357.15	\$711.49	\$3.91	\$4.32
4"	\$901.82	\$1,420.68	\$3.91	\$4.32
6"	\$1,799.17	\$2,271.71	\$3.91	\$4.32
8"	\$2,696.53	\$3,973.76	\$3.91	\$4.32
10"	\$3,598.38	\$7,803.39	\$3.91	\$4.32

Private Fire Service				
Meter Size	Meter Service		Commodity Per 100 Cubic Feet	
	Current	Proposed	Current	Proposed
4"	\$66.97	\$19.60	\$3.91	\$4.32
6"	\$100.46	\$52.54	\$3.91	\$4.32
8"	\$133.94	\$109.35	\$3.91	\$4.32
10"	\$156.26	\$194.82	\$3.91	\$4.32

*8,110 of 9,385 meters are 5/8 inch size meters. The larger meters typically serve commercial properties and large multi-family residential buildings.

EFFECTIVE DATES OF WATER RATE INCREASES. The proposed water rate increases will be effective as follows:

July 1, 2021	10% increase
July 1, 2022	10% increase
July 1, 2023	10% increase
July 1, 2024	10% increase
July 1, 2025	10% increase

ADDITIONAL ANNUAL CPI WATER RATE INCREASES.

The proposed water rates above will include additional automatic increases for consumer price index (CPI) to be effective as follows:

July 1, 2026	increase in accordance with CPI for Los Angeles, CA area
July 1, 2027	increase in accordance with CPI for Los Angeles, CA area
July 1, 2028	increase in accordance with CPI for Los Angeles, CA area
July 1, 2029	increase in accordance with CPI for Los Angeles, CA area
July 1, 2030	increase in accordance with CPI for Los Angeles, CA area

The above increases are required to achieve minimum cash flow needs to pay bondholders, capital improvements, inflation, and operational costs.

BASIS FOR THE CHARGES. The charges are based on the need to generate sufficient revenue to cover all of the actual costs of providing water service, including required repairs which the previous owner failed to make and upgrading of the water system needed to improve service. The charges are calculated on the basis that 30% of the revenue will be generated by the service charge and 70% by the commodity charge. The costs are made up of five components: (1) the operational costs incurred by the City to operate the water system such as the cost of purchasing water and operating pumps and wells, (2) the costs incurred directly by the City in operating the water system such as engineering costs to design improvements, (3) costs relating to bonds which were issued to pay for the required repairs and improvements, (4) costs to maintain an adequate cash reserve, and (5) costs for capital improvements which will not be paid for with bond proceeds.

REASON FOR THE CHARGES. The charges will permit the City to provide your property with water and to continue repairing and upgrading the water system. The revenue generated by the charges will be used only for the operation of the water system. The City is prohibited by law from using such revenue for any other purpose.

PROPOSITION 218 — WRITTEN PROTEST.

A Public Hearing on the proposed water rate increase will be held on June 22, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers at 6615 Passons Blvd, Pico Rivera, CA 90660. Members of the public may come to the Public Hearing and provide oral testimony regarding the proposed rates.

In addition, any property owner whose property will be subject to the new rates may submit a written protest. One written protest will be counted per identified parcel. The proposed rates will not be adopted if protests are received from more than fifty percent (50%) of affected properties. Written protests may be submitted by mail or in person to:

City Clerk, City of Pico Rivera, 6615 Passons Blvd, Pico Rivera, CA 90660

Protests may also be brought to the Public Hearing (date and time noted above) and must be received by the City Clerk prior to the conclusion of the Public Hearing. Any written protest must:

- (1) state that the identified property owner is in opposition to the proposed rate increase;
- (2) identify the affected property by its Assessor’s Parcel Number or address;
- (3) identify the property owner; and
- (4) include the property owner’s signature.

If the person protesting was not shown on the Los Angeles County’s last equalized assessment roll as the property owner of record, provide written evidence that the person is the property owner (example: current copy of City Service Bill).

QUESTIONS & MORE INFORMATION. If you have questions or want more information, please call the City of Pico Rivera Finance Director at (562) 801-4391.

Published at Los Cerritos Community Newspaper 5/21/21

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF:
ELIE G. MALOUF AKA ELIE GEORGE MALOUF AKA ELIE MALOUF
CASE NO. 21STPB00149
To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the WILL or estate, or both of ELIE G. MALOUF AKA ELIE GEORGE MALOUF AKA ELIE MALOUF.
A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by ROB SASLOW, CLPF in the Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES.
THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that ROB SASLOW, CLPF be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.
THE PETITION requests the decedent's WILL and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The WILL and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court.
THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.
A HEARING on the petition will be held in this court as follows: 06/11/21 at 8:30AM in Dept. 5 located at 111 N. HILL ST., LOS ANGELES, CA 90012
IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.
IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code.
Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.
YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.
Attorney for Petitioner
JEFFREY A. COLEMAN
SBN 209669
THE COLEMAN FIRM PC
417 31ST STREET, UNIT B
NEWPORT BEACH CA 92663
BSC 219946
5/21, 5/28, 6/4/21
CNS-3471587#
LOS CERRITOS COMMUNITY NEWS

NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF BULK SALE
(UCC Sec. 6105)
Escrow No. 2702-CP
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a bulk sale is about to be made. The name(s), business address(es) to the Seller(s) are:
REVE COFFEE, INC, 137 N. MONTEBELLO BLVD., STE A, MONTEBELLO, CA 90640
Doing Business as: BALROG COFFEE (TYPE-COFFEE SHOP)
All other business name(s) and address(es) used by the Seller(s) within three years, as stated by the Seller(s), is/are: NONE
The location in California of the Chief Executive Office of the Seller(s) is: NONE
The name(s) and address of the Buyer(s) is/are: YOUNG PRINCE HOLDINGS, 800 1/2 W. BEVERLY BLVD., MONTEBELLO, CA 90640
The assets to be sold are described in general as: FURNITURE, FIXTURES, EQUIPMENT, GOODWILL, TRADENAME, LEASE, IMPROVEMENTS AND COVENANT NOT TO COMPETE and are located at: 137 N. MONTEBELLO BLVD., STE A, MONTEBELLO, CA 90640
The bulk sale is intended to be consummated at the office of: GLOBAL FIRST ESCROW, INC., 19271 COLIMA RD., SUITE F ROWLAND HEIGHTS CA 91748 and the anticipated sale date is JUNE 16, 2021
The bulk sale is subject to California Uniform Commercial Code Section 6106.2.
[If the sale is subject to Sec. 6106.2, the following information must be provided.] The name and address of the person with whom claims may be filed is: GLOBAL FIRST ESCROW, INC., 19271 COLIMA RD., SUITE F ROWLAND HEIGHTS CA 91748 and the last date for filing claims shall be JUNE 15, 2021, which is the business day before the sale date specified above.
Dated: 5/17/21
BUYER: YOUNG PRINCE HOLDINGS,
311158 COMMERCE COMMUNITY NEWS 5/21/21

ABC UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
NOTICE CALLING FOR BID

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the ABC Unified School District will receive up to but not later than **11:00 AM** on the **10th day of June, 2021** Bids for:

ABC Bid # 1568 Fuel Pump Replacement

All bids shall be made and presented on a form furnished by the District. Bids submitted shall conform to the terms and conditions stated on said form. Bids shall be received in the office of the Purchasing Department at 16700 Norwalk Blvd., Cerritos, CA 90703 and shall be opened and publicly read aloud at the above-stated time and place. Bidders may obtain the website link to bid documents at the mandatory jobwalk on June 3, 2021 at 10:00 AM sharp at the Transportation yard 11865 178th St. Artesia. All public works are subject to prevailing wage payments, Valid License valid Class A HAZ Contractor's License and DIR Registration will be required.

Los Cerritos News

May 21, 2021
May 28, 2021

Published at LCCN 5/21 and 5/28/2021


Notice of Self Storage Sale

Please take notice US Storage Centers - Commerce – Olympic located at 5415 E. Olympic Blvd. Commerce CA 90022 intends to hold an auction to sell the goods stored by the following tenants at the storage facility. The sale will occur as an online auction via www.storage-treasures.com on 6/17/2021 at 10:00AM. Unless stated otherwise the description of the contents are household goods and furnishings. Tania Salinas Bernal; Jose L Molina; Arturo Tanori; Yasmeen Anguiano; Rosario D Paz Laborde (2 units); Otto Francisco Davila Jr; Elie Samaha; Angelica M Barajas; Luz Adriana Pacheco Rangel; Manuel de Jesus Martinez; Joseph David Jacobo; Janet Sanchez; Juan Manuel Morales; Lucy G Vega; Fernando Hernandez; Elisa Michelle Fisher; Gabriel Terriquez; Jose Fernandez; Israel Navarro. All property is being stored at the above self-storage facility. This sale may be withdrawn at any time without notice. Certain terms and conditions apply. See manager for details.

Notice of Self Storage Sale

Please take notice US Storage Centers – Cerritos located at 16015 Piuma Ave. Cerritos, CA 90703 intends to hold an auction to sell the goods stored by the following tenants at the storage facility. The sale will occur as an online auction via www.storage-treasures.com on 6/17/2021 at 10:00AM. Unless stated otherwise the description of the contents are household goods and furnishings. Alvaro de Jesus Perez; Michael John Brophy; Jaime Leighton; Erika Gabrielle Bannister- Mejia; Maurice Parker Jr Jones; Pamela Keiko Eberle. All property is being stored at the above self-storage facility. This sale may be withdrawn at any time without notice. Certain terms and conditions apply. See manager for details.

Published at LCCN 5/28 and 6/4/21



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF TREASURER
AND
TAX COLLECTOR

NOTICE OF DIVIDED
PUBLICATION
Made pursuant to Revenue and
Taxation Code Section 3381

Pursuant to Revenue and Taxation Code (R&TC) Sections 3381 through 3385, the Notice of Power to Sell Tax-Defaulted Property Subject to the Tax Collector's Power to Sell in and for the County of Los Angeles, State of California, has been divided and distributed to various newspapers of general circulation published in the County. A portion of the list appears in each of such newspapers.

**NOTICE OF IMPENDING POWER TO SELL
TAX-DEFAULTED PROPERTY**
Made pursuant to Revenue and
Taxation Code Section 3361

Notice is hereby given that the following parcels listed will become Subject to the Tax Collector's Power to Sell on Thursday, **July 1, 2021**, at 12:01 a.m. Pacific Time, by operation of law. The real property taxes and assessments on the parcels listed will have been defaulted five or more years, except for:

- Nonresidential commercial parcels, as defined in R&TC Section 3691, which will have been defaulted for three or more years;
- Parcels on which a nuisance abatement lien has been recorded, which will have been defaulted for three or more years;
- Parcels that can serve the public benefit and a request has been made by the County of Los Angeles, a city within the County of Los Angeles, or nonprofit organization to purchase the parcels through Chapter 8 Agreement Sales pursuant to R&TC Section 3692.4, which will have been defaulted for three or more years.


The Tax Collector will record a Notice of Power to Sell unless the property taxes are paid in full or the property owner initiates an installment plan of redemption, as provided by law, prior to 5:00 p.m. Pacific Time, on Wednesday, **June 30, 2021**, when the right to initiate an installment plan terminates. Thereafter, the only option to prevent the sale of the property at public auction is to pay the taxes in full.

The right of redemption survives the property becoming Subject to the Tax Collector's Power to Sell, but it terminates at 5:00 p.m. Pacific Time, on the last business day before the scheduled auction of the property by the Tax Collector.

The Treasurer and Tax Collector's Office will furnish, upon request, information concerning making a payment in full or initiating an installment plan of redemption. For more information, please visit our website at ttc.lacounty.gov.

The amount to redeem the property, in United States dollars and cents, is set forth in the listing opposite each parcel number. This amount includes all defaulted taxes, penalties, and fees that have accrued from the date of tax-default to the date of Wednesday, June 30, 2021.

I certify, under penalty of perjury, that the foregoing is true and correct. Dated this 16 day of April, 2021



KEITH KNOX
TREASURER AND TAX COLLECTOR
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

PARCEL NUMBERING SYSTEM EXPLANATION

The Assessor's Identification Number, when used to describe property in this list, refers to the Assessor's map book, the map page, the block on the map, if applicable, and the individual parcel on the map page or in the block. The Assessor's maps and further explanation of the parcel numbering system are available in the Assessor's Office, 500 West Temple Street, Room 225, Los Angeles, California 90012.

The real property that is the subject of this notice is situated in the County of Los Angeles, State of California, and is described as follows:

PROPERTY TAX DEFAULTED IN YEAR 2018 FOR TAXES, ASSESSMENT, AND OTHER CHARGES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017-2018

2871	\$3,081.61
GARCI, SALVADOR AND GARCIA, ERNESTO AIN: 7009-007-008	
2872	\$5,985.69
GARCIA, SALVADOR AND GARCIA, ERNESTO AIN: 7009-007-009	
2873	\$6,392.55
GARCIA, SALVADOR AND GARCIA, ERNESTO AIN: 7009-007-061	
2881	\$84,556.52
SURATI FARSAN MART INC SITUS:11645 ARTESIA BLVD ARTESIA CA 90701-3849 AIN: 7035-016-067	

3090	\$2,857.60
RUIZ, OMAR AIN: 8021-024-031	
3099	\$2,593.76
GARCIA, ROY N AND ROCIO C AIN: 8052-015-041	
3108	\$5,924.24
WINSON INTERNATIONAL LLC AIN: 8070-018-031	
3109	\$20,926.48
2017 SKY LLC SITUS:13306 ROSECRANS AVE NORWALK CA 90650-5251 AIN: 8070-023-004	
3110	\$28,059.98
2017 SKY LLC SITUS:13302 ROSECRANS AVE NORWALK CA 90650-5251 AIN: 8070-023-005	
3111	\$9,857.01
2017 SKY LLC AIN: 8070-023-006	
3116	\$2,976.60
LE, MINH TAM C/O C/O GLADYS AIN: 8075-039-028	

PROPERTY TAX DEFAULTED IN YEAR 2016 FOR TAXES, ASSESSMENT, AND OTHER CHARGES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015-2016

2874	\$4,691.54
PACIFIC LATIN AMER DIST COUNCIL OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD SITUS:11910 ALONDRA BLVD NORWALK CA 90650-7107 AIN: 7009-011-029	
2875	\$2,915.95
PACIFIC LATIN AMER DIST COUNCIL OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD SITUS:11910 ALONDRA BLVD NORWALK CA 90650-7107 AIN: 7009-011-030	
2876	\$43,922.20
MONTALVO, JOSEPH A AND OSWALD, EMMANUEL A SITUS:15951 ELAINE AVE NORWALK CA 90650-7114 AIN: 7009-017-014	
2877	\$8,875.80
MORENO, ERIK AIN: 7011-007-028	
2880	\$11,090.37
JACQUEZ, RAMON J SITUS:13544 DARVALLE ST CERRITOS CA 90703-6325 AIN: 7023-007-027	
2882	\$1,513.84
VACA, ROBERT J SITUS:18518 CLARKDALE AVE ARTESIA CA 90701-5724 AIN: 7040-014-004	
2884	\$53,596.88
LEE, CHIA C SITUS:11337 AGNES ST CERRITOS CA 90703-6503 AIN: 7049-004-022	
3089	\$10,998.53
HERNANDEZ, JOAQUIN SITUS:11031 BRINK AVE NORWALK CA 90650-1837 AIN: 8015-010-006	
3091	\$4,322.61
EZELL, STEVEN AND CAROL SITUS:11830 ELM-CROFT AVE NORWALK CA 90650-7727 AIN: 8022-010-011	
3092	\$14.35
STOLL, WILHELMENA TR WILHELMENA STOLL TRUST SITUS:11220 HERCULES ST NORWALK CA 90650-7753 AIN: 8022-011-040	
3100	\$21,306.76
KRATZ, ODETTE Y TR KRATZ TRUST SITUS:14103 LONGWORTH AVE NORWALK CA 90650-3752 AIN: 8053-030-004	
3101	\$16,023.25
HAUSER, HEIDI L SITUS:11746 HOBACK ST NORWALK CA 90650-4049 AIN: 8054-009-041	
3112	\$4,346.25
MARVAL, MARIO A SITUS:14352 ELAINE AVE NORWALK CA 90650-4936 AIN: 8073-004-002	
3113	\$5,188.93
BALAIS, BELINDA L SITUS:11400 ROSECRANS AVE NORWALK CA 90650-3801 AIN: 8074-005-012	
3115	\$17,771.90
CAMPEN, CAROL B TR CAROL B CAMPEN TRUST SITUS:14808 DALWOOD AVE NORWALK CA 90650-5622 AIN: 8075-022-006	
3117	\$11,901.87
DALA, VELARDO AND MAGDALENA S TRS DALA FAMILY TRUST SITUS:12617 CHESHIRE ST NORWALK CA 90650-7320 AIN: 8082-005-025	

PROPERTY TAX DEFAULTED IN YEAR 2015 FOR TAXES, ASSESSMENT, AND OTHER CHARGES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2014-2015

2879	\$16,947.32
WILLETT, ELIZABETH TR ELIZABETH WILLETT TRUST SITUS:13852 ACORO ST CERRITOS CA 90703-9005 AIN: 7022-019-059	

PROPERTY TAX DEFAULTED IN YEAR 2013 FOR TAXES, ASSESSMENT, AND OTHER CHARGES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2012-2013

3114	\$5,114.74
BALAIS, CYNTHIA L AND BALAIS, BELINDA L SITUS:11637 LINDALE ST NORWALK CA 90650-4833 AIN: 8074-016-013	

PROPERTY TAX DEFAULTED IN YEAR 2011 FOR TAXES, ASSESSMENT, AND OTHER CHARGES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2010-2011


2878	\$27,140.77
DELGADO, SEAN TR RYAN D WERTZ TRUST SITUS:11632 FACULTY DR NORWALK CA 90650-7020 AIN: 7014-009-007	
CN977640 538 May 14,21, 2021	

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Los Cerritos
Community Newspaper



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Certified Collection Centers Near You

Commerce Lube
2432 S. Indiana St., Commerce, CA 90023

International Repair
4246 E. Washington Blvd., Commerce, CA 90023

AutoZone
11560 Telegraph Rd., Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670



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